

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/086 W

-----117731 241329Z /43

R 241217Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4642
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EG US ELAB
SUBJECT: CHAIKIN-LEE VISIT TO EGYPT: SUCCESS IN
- EGYPTIAN EYES

SUMMARY. CHAIKIN-LEE VISIT, HIGH POINT OF WHICH WAS MEETING WITH EFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WAS WELL PUBLICIZED SUCCESS. MEDIA COVERAGE REFLECTED EGYPTIAN SATISFACTION WITH AFL-CIO READINESS PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN WORKERS EDUCATION AND ITS SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON U.S. VISIT BY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN JUNE OR JULY. CHAIKIN WAS INVARIABLY FRANK IN HIS REMARKS. HE MADE CLEAR THAT, ALTHOUGH EGYPTIAN LABOR HAS MADE PROGRESS, FUTURE OF RELATIONS WOULD DEPEND ON EFL ADHERENCE TO PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM. EGYPTIANS SEEMED ACCEPT THESE VIEWS IN PROPER SPIRIT. THEY SEEMED MAKE NO CONNECTION BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY AND LABOR RELATIONS BUT, IN OUR VIEW, COURSE OF PEACE PROCESS IS SURE TO COLOR AFL-CIO/EFL RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. JANUARY 14-19 VISIT OF AFL-CIO VP CHAIKIN AND INTER-
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NATIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR LEE WAS CONSIDERED SUCCESS BY EGYPTIAN LABOR AND TREATED AS SUCH PUBLICLY. VISIT RECEIVED GOOD, OCCASIONALLY ACCURATE, PRESS COVERAGE. MEETING WITH EFL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL JANUARY 17 WAS HIGH POINT OF SUBSTANTIVE PORTION AND WAS FEATURED ON TV. PRESS REPORTS SAID MEETINGS DEALT WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO LABOR FEDERATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN FIELD OF

WORKERS EDUCATION. CHAIKIN QUOTED APPROVINGLY THAT U.S. REPS CAME TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING EGYPTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND WERE IMPRESSED BY PROGRESS ACHIEVED TO DATE. VISIT WAS CONSIDERED FIRST STEP IN PROMOTING "BROTHERLY AND FRIENDLY RELATIONS". NOTED CHAIKIN COMMENT THAT THIS WOULD NOT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT, BUT REQUIRED CONTINUING EFFORT AND HARD WORK. EFL COMMITMENT TO TRADE UNION PRINCIPLES, ACCORDING REPORTED CHAIKIN REMARKS, "CONSIDERED AN ENCOURAGING SIGNAL TO THEIR BROTHERS FROM THE AMERICAN TRADE UNIONS TO HELP EGYPTIANS REALIZE THIS LOFTY GOAL." PRESS NOTED WITH SATISFACTION "AFL-CIO READINESS" TO SUPPLY WORKERS UNIVERSITY PROJECT WITH "MODERN EQUIPMENT AND AUDIO VISUAL DEVICES" AS WELL AS AGREEMENT TO SEND ENTIRE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF EFL TO U.S. FOR ONE-MONTH VISIT.

2. EQUAL STRESS WAS LAID ON CHAIKIN REMARKS SUPPORTIVE OF EGYPTIAN PEACE INITIATIVE. ACCORDING PRESS MEANY HAD ASKED CHAIKIN TO COMMUNICATE TO EFL "AMERICAN WORKERS FULL SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S PEACE EFFORTS", AND CHAIKIN APPEALED TO BOTH PRESIDENT SADAT AND BEGIN TO CONTINUE THESE EFFORTS. "HE ADDED THAT AMERICAN WORKERS WILL EXERT EFFORTS TO URGE THEIR FRIENDS OF THE ISRAELI LABOR MOVEMENT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THEIR GOVERNMENT TO SEIZE THE GREAT CHANCE OF SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE TO REACH SUCCESSFUL AND TANGIBLE RESULTS."
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3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH EMBASSY WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT MAJORITY OF MEETINGS BETWEEN U.S. AND EGYPTIAN UNION REPS, LRO DID ATTEND MEETING WITH EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND FOUND CHAIKIN HIGHLY EFFECTIVE IN HIS REMARKS AND ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS. CHAIKIN WAS INVARIABLY FRANK, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO AFL-CIO EXPECTATIONS THAT EGYPTIAN LABOR FULLY REFLECT PRINCIPLES OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM BUT EGYPTIANS SEEMED ACCEPT THESE REMARKS IN SPIRIT THEY WERE OFFERED. THEY WERE APPRECIATIVE OF CHAIKIN'S EXPRESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVES AND, QUITE CLEARLY, HIGHLY SATISFIED WITH PROMISE OF ASSISTANCE TO WORKERS UNIVERSITY, PROSPECTIVE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL VISIT TO U.S., AND PROSPECT OF ADDITIONAL U.S. ASSISTANCE IN LABOR FIELD (WE NOTE CHAIKIN DID NOT COMMIT U.S. TO SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE BEYOND WORKERS UNIVERSITY).

4. EMBASSY, TOO, CONSIDERS VISIT SUCCESSFUL, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT HANDLED IN HIGHLY REALISTIC FASHION BY CHAIKIN AND LEE, WHO DID NOT ALLOW EGYPTIAN TENDENCY TO INFLATED INTERPRETATION OF SUCH EVENTS TO DISTORT

PERSPECTIVE. BELIEVE THEY LAID SOUND BASIS FOR FUTURE
RELATIONS AND, PROPERLY, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE WILL
DEPEND TO LARGE EXTENT ON EVIDENCE OF GOOD FAITH FROM
EGYPTIAN SIDE.

5. ONLY SHADOW CAST OVER VISIT CAME NIGHT OF JANUARY 18,
AT DINNER WITH SAAD AHMAD, FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER
SECRETARY, AND UNION OFFICIALS WHEN NEWS OF SADAT'S

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USIA-06 SSM-03 IO-13 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01
/086 W
-----117743 241328Z /43

R 241217Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4643
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RECALL OF EGYPTIAN DELEGATION FROM JERUSALEM BECAME
KNOWN. THERE SEEMED NO APPARENT CONNECTION MADE BY
EGYPTIANS BETWEEN MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY AND LABOR RELA-
TIONS, ALTHOUGH WE SUSPECT THIS CANNOT HAVE BEEN FAR
FROM THEIR MINDS. COURSE OF PEACE PROCESS IS BOUND TO
COLOR AFL-CIO/EFL RELATIONS, INITIAL GROUNDWORK OF WHICH
LAID IN EARLY ELATION OF SADAT INITIATIVE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRAVEL REPORTS, VISITS, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAIRO02681
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780035-0530
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780131/aaaaaznf.tel
Line Count: 159
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a8ee24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3727193
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHAIKIN-LEE VISIT TO EGYPT: SUCCESS IN - EGYPTIAN EYES SUMMARY. CHAIKIN-LEE VISIT, HIGH POINT OF WHICH W
TAGS: ELAB, OVIP, EG, US, AFL-CIO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a8ee24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014